

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Study Session
and Closed Executive Session

May 20, 2014

The Board of Education of Salt Lake City School District met in a Board Study Session and Closed Executive Session at 5:35 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: President Kristi Swett, Vice President Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, and Laurel H. Young.

Members Excused: Lavenita Vaitai, Student Member.

Also Present: Superintendent McKell Withers; Janet Roberts, Business Administrator; Patrick Garcia, Associate Superintendent School Support; Kristina Kindl, Director of Policy and Legal Services; Julie Atwood, Director of Educational Technology/Library Media/Elementary School Support; Laurie Lacy, Director Title One and Elementary School Support; Shauna Olson, Elementary School Support; Sue Parker, Elementary School Support; Joann Price, ELP Supervisor & Elementary School Support; Michael Williams, Director of Development and External Relations; Mike Harmon, representing the Salt Lake Teachers Association; Janet Clark, representing the Child Nutrition Employees Association; Cindy Mills, representing the Salt Lake Educational Office Personnel Association; Jason Olsen, Public Information Officer; Allison Sisam, Business Administration Office; and others in the audience.

In accordance with the agenda prepared for the Board Study Session of May 20, 2014, two motions were made. Items are reported as listed in the agenda and not necessarily in the order they were considered.

The meeting was called to order by President Swett, who presided.

1. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:35 p.m. a motion was made, after which members excused the audience and remained in the board room:

*(1) That the board meet in Closed Executive Session to consider litigation, negotiations, property, and personnel items.

**(Sandberg and Young)

Board Study Session

May 20, 2014

Present for Closed Session were Kristi Swett, Heather Bennett, J. Michael Clára, Rosemary Emery, Dr. Douglas Nelson, Tiffany Sandberg, Laurel H. Young, McKell Withers, Janet Roberts, Patrick Garcia, Kristina Kindl, and John Robson, board legal counsel from Fabian Attorneys at Law.

Board members adjourned from the Closed Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. and returned to the Board Study Session at 6:35 p.m.

2. BOARD STUDY SESSION

- President Swett welcomed everyone in the audience.
- Shauna Olsen led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Heather Bennett recognized Sarah Wilcox, West High School student, for being named a 2014 U.S. Presidential Scholar. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects students based on academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations, and transcripts, as well as community service, leadership, and commitment to high ideals. Vice President Bennett said Sarah is ranked #1 in her class, has a cumulative grade point average of 3.95, is a full AP and IB student, and scored a 35 composite on the ACT. She read a few of Sarah's accomplishments; cited the numerous awards she had attained, including being named the 2014 Math Sterling Scholar; and noted many extra-curricular activities and community service efforts she has been involved with. On behalf of the board she presented her with a Certificate of Recognition. Ms. Wilcox thanked the board for the recognition. She said she had enjoyed her education at West, the classes were good, and the teachers excellent. She introduced her mother and said she had always supported her in all her efforts. Sarah told the board she will be attending Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California.
- Limited Consent Agenda

*(2) A motion was made that the board approve the Limited Consent Agenda consisting of the Purchasing Report dated May 20, 2014.

**(Young and Emery)

- a. The Purchasing Report dated May 20, 2014, included a breakdown of items costing over and under \$50,000, and increases to existing purchase orders.

A. STUDY TOPICS

VOTE RECORD	AYE	NAY	ABSENT
BENNETT	X		
CLÁRA	X		
EMERY	X		
NELSON	X		
SWETT	X		
SANDBERG	X		
YOUNG	X		
A Absent	Ab Abstention	F Failed	
N "No" Vote	NA No Action	T Tabled	
W Withdrawn	*Unanimous Approval		
**Members Making Motion			

1. 2014-2015 School Improvement and LAND Trust Plans. School Support Team members Julie Atwood, Laurie Lacy, Shauna Olson, Sue Parker, and Joann Price were present to answer questions relative to the 2014-15 School Improvement and LAND Trust plans. They told the board they felt a better job had been done going over the School Improvement Plan template and explaining the process, which had resulted in principals being better prepared. They said there had been more time to review the plans and make necessary changes before the plans were provided to the board for review.

During the discussion, Ms. Atwood told the board there had been some concern initially over the needs assessment survey, but said after schools starting writing their plans she had only heard positive comments. Ms. Olson told board members the schools she works with had found ways to involve parents and the community in the needs assessment survey. Ms. Price told the board there is a section of the needs assessment survey that is designed specifically for the community, and she noted some schools had done a better job sending only the applicable sections to the community, instead of the entire needs assessment survey.

Superintendent Withers expressed his appreciation to the School Support Team for listening to the schools and for the changes that were made to the School Improvement Plan and LAND Trust template and process. He said the plans are truly becoming living documents. He also expressed appreciation to the board for their thoughtful approach to the plans. He asked board members, as they continue their review of the plans assigned to them, to let the School Support Team know if they find any problems so they can be corrected. He noted the 2014-15 School Improvement and LAND Trust plans will be on the Action Agenda for the June 3, 2014, Board Business Meeting.

President Swett thanked the School Support Team for the modifications made to the School Improvement Plan process and templates, noting how helpful the changes were for principals. She thanked them for all their hard work and collaboration with the schools.

2. Budget Development. Janet Roberts noted the board had received a DRAFT copy of the 2014-15 Annual Budget. She distributed a handout to them for their Annual Budget Development books titled "2014-15 Budget Development." A copy of the handout has been added to the official minutes.

Prior to beginning the discussion, Ms. Roberts clarified for board members how staffing projections are developed, noting the different staffing ratios for different grade levels. She stated this calculation is for regular classroom teachers, and FTEs for other programs, such as Title I, State Class Size Reduction, Special Education, Full-Day kindergarten, etc., are added on top of the regular classroom teacher FTE. She also reminded board members the elementary principals had previously requested that FTE numbers be rounded down, their rationale for this was they would rather have to add additional staff than be forced to reduce staff when actual enrollment numbers are known in the fall.

President Swett said based on board discussions, board leadership had worked with Ms. Roberts and Superintendent Withers to develop some options. Ms. Roberts went through the handout with board members. She said the first page of the handout is a summary of the pages, noting the following pages are color-coded to the summary sheet. She said the handout includes Proposed Budget Options for Ongoing Budget Items and One-Time Investment Budget Items. She provided a brief explanation of the options presented.

Board members discussed options. In response to a question raised by Mr. Clára, Ms. Roberts told the board a 3% increase for employees would cost approximately \$4.8 million. The various options that were proposed were considered and board members each expressed their preferences. Board members talked briefly about the future capital needs of the district, their desire to meet those needs on a pay-as-you-go basis, and not go to the taxpayers asking them to support a bond election. Also discussed was the option to provide additional discretionary funds for schools to spend based on individual school needs.

Based on the board's discussion, President Swett said the consensus of the board was they would like to reduce class size and would spend at least \$2.6 million on an option that will be determined and will provide the greatest impact for the most students. Board members will continue to discuss and consider options for the one-time funds noting they can be adjusted in future years based on need.

Ms. Roberts reminded board members they would be holding their budget hearing at the Board Business Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, 2014. The Public Hearing will begin at 7:00 p.m. She said following the hearing, the board will need to vote to approve the revised budget for 2013-14, the proposed budget for 2014-15, and the tax rate. She said based on the board's discussion to proceed with the \$6.8 million additional that maintaining the current rate will provide, the district will be required to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing. The date the Salt Lake County Auditor has set aside for that hearing will be Thursday, August 7, 2014.

It was noted that after the Budget Hearing on June 3 the board could adjust the rate down but could not move it up.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Miscellaneous Updates:

New Laws and State Rules. Superintendent Withers told the board he would add New Laws and State Rules to the agenda for June.

2. Other Reports. Superintendent Withers announced Highland High School teacher Kyle Bracken has received the Huntsman Award for Excellence in Education.

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Superintendent Withers announced the District has received a new Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Grant for the 2014-15 year. All of the Title I elementary schools plus Whittier will receive funds.

Superintendent Withers said the district has received notification of additional grants and formal announcements of the grants will be made.

C. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Study Session was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Janet M. Roberts
Business Administrator

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